

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-8, 18-19, 22-25 and 27-29 are pending.

Claims 1-2, 5-8, and 18-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyake et al., JP Publication No. 2001-316686, in view of Yagishita, US Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0272616.

The Examiner has argued that applicants' showing of unexpected results is not commensurate with the scope of the claims. Applicants have now amended the claims, without prejudice, such that applicants believe the claims are consistent with what the Examiner has indicated is commensurate in scope with the showing of unexpected results.

Applicants also submit a copy of an Office action (and an English translation thereof) that recently issued in a foreign counterpart application. As can be seen, the Office action cites references JP-2001-316686-A and WO 03/033629 A1.

JP-2001-316686-A is the Miyake et al. reference already of record in the present application.

WO 03/033629 A1 discloses a lubricant oil composition for internal combustion engines comprising a base oil and additives which include a triphosphate, succinimide, a metal detergent such as a neutral salicylate, and an anti-oxidant (see Abstract). It is also disclosed that the composition may optionally contain an anti-wear agent such as MoDTC, and a friction modifier.

However, WO 03/033629 A1 is silent about the significant effect of the lubricant of the present invention when used on particular DLC (a-C and/or a-C:H) sliding surfaces.

Further, WO 03/033629 A1 teaches nothing about the claimed C1-C40 esters of aliphatic monocarboxylic acids as friction modifier, and there is no working example wherein MoDTC is used. That is, there is no teaching in this reference about the presently claimed combination of the particular base oil, MoDTC, and C1-C40 esters of aliphatic monocarboxylic acids, nor its significant effect.

Applicants also note that WO 03/033629 A1 is related to published application US 2004/0242434 A1 which may provide further explanation of the relevance thereof.